

Message

From: Husby, Peter [Husby.Peter@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/31/2018 6:54:09 PM
To: Smith, DavidW [Smith.DavidW@epa.gov]; thomas.mumley@waterboards.ca.gov; naomi.feger@waterboards.ca.gov
CC: Valiela, Luisa [Valiela.Luisa@epa.gov]; Lincoff, Andy [Lincoff.Andy@epa.gov]; WILLIAMS, CYNTHIA [Williams.Cynthia@epa.gov]; James, Duane [James.Duane@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Coliform/e.coli levels in Lake Merritt
Attachments: 2018 sampling sites map.jpg; 1808028 9L_Analysis FINAL 08 21 18 1155.pdf; 1808045 9L_Analysis FINAL 08 30 18 0811.pdf; 1808067 9L_Analysis FINAL 08 31 18 1034.pdf

Hello all,

The USEPA Region 9 Laboratory has been providing analytical support (principally coliform/e.coli analyses) to volunteer monitoring organizations in the east bay for many years. Volunteer organizations collect ambient creek and lake samples and bring those samples to the lab in Richmond for analysis. Typically, the groups collect weekly samples for 5 weeks to permit calculation of geometric means to assess their waters in terms of a standard.

We are currently analyzing samples from Lake Merritt, collected by a volunteer group. The levels of indicator organisms have been high, but the most recent samples, collected yesterday, are particularly high. In the past, E. coli levels over 100,000/100 mL in ambient East Bay samples have been found to be caused by active sewer overflows or breaks. The volunteer groups have often contacted City Public Works Departments which have addressed the problems. In light of the high numbers, we felt we should let you all know about the results, as soon as possible, so you would be aware of the situation.

I am attaching the reports of the last three weeks here, as well as a map of the sample locations. If you have any questions please contact me.

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